

THE FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

NORTH WALES

LUNATIC ASYLUM,

DENBIGH.

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For the year m.dccc.lii.

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1853.



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# VISITORS FOR THE YEAR 1853.

## APPOINTED BY SUBSCRIBERS.

The Very Rev. the Dean of St. Asaph.  
Rev. W. Hicks Owen.  
John Jesse, Esq.  
Richard Roberts, Esq.

Edward Edwards, Esq.  
Brownlow Wynne Wynne, Esq.  
Captain Heaton.

## COUNTY OF DENBIGH.

John Heaton, Esq.  
John Williams, Esq., M.D.  
John Jocelyn Ffoulkes, Esq.  
Townshend Mainwaring, Esq.

John Price, Esq.  
Frederick Richard West, Esq., M. P.  
Thomas Hughes, Esq.

## COUNTY OF FLINT.

Venerable Archdeacon Clough.  
Colonel Morgan.  
W. Shipley Conwy, Esq.  
Llewelyn Faulkner Lloyd, Esq.

Rev. W. Robert Wyatt.  
Rev. H. Ovendon Wrench.  
Captain Mostyn.

## COUNTY OF CARNARVON.

Rev. Morgan Morgan.  
Rev. James Vincent Vincent.  
John Vincent Hawksley Williams, Esq.

Charles Wynne, Esq.  
Captain Wyatt Watling, R.N.

## COUNTY OF ANGLESEY.

Sir R. B. W. Bulkeley, Bart., M.P.  
Rev. Charles Williams.  
Hon. William Owen Stanley, M.P.

Josiah Spode, Esq.  
Stephen Roose, Esq.

## COUNTY OF MERIONETH.

W. W. E. Wynne, Esq., M.P.  
Captain Thurston.  
G. Price Lloyd, Esq.

Rev. John Wynne.  
Henry Richardson, Esq.

## HOUSE COMMITTEE.

John Heaton, Esq., Chairman.  
The Very Rev. the Dean of St. Asaph.  
Richard Roberts, Esq.  
Edward Edwards, Esq.  
John Williams, Esq., M.D.  
John Price, Esq.  
Thomas Hughes, Esq.

John Jocelyn Ffoulkes, Esq.  
W. Shipley Conwy, Esq.  
Rev. W. Robert Wyatt.  
Townshend Mainwaring, Esq.  
Captain Heaton.  
Frederick Richard West, Esq., M.P.  
Rev. William Hicks Owen.

## VISITING PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON.

DR. LLOYD WILLIAMS, F.R.C.S.L.

## RESIDENT MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT.

MR. GEORGE TURNER JONES, M.R.C.S.L.

## CHAPLAIN.

Rev. R. J. ROBERTS.

## MATRON.

MRS. SHAW.

## CLERK AND STEWARD.

MR. JOHN ROBINSON.

## TREASURERS.

THE NORTH AND SOUTH WALES BANK, DENBIGH.

NOTE.—It is deemed essential that the House Committee should consist of persons resident within a moderate distance of the Asylum; yet, the occasional attendance of the Visiting Justices of the distant counties would be much desired by the House Committee.



## REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE.

THE Committee of Visitors of the North Wales Asylum have the satisfaction of presenting their fourth report to the Subscribers and to the Justices of the several Quarter Sessions, with more cheering prospects than those upon which they have as yet had the satisfaction of congratulating those who delegated the management into their hands.

They beg to refer to the reports of the Medical Officers for information relative to the statistics of the recoveries and present medical state of the Asylum, contenting themselves with recording their continued and cordial tribute of approbation to them for their attention to the interests of the Institution.

The Committee, after having given much consideration to the subject, and after a full discussion of it amongst themselves, have come to the conclusion that the time is arrived when they can, with propriety, recommend an increase to the salaries of the Medical Officers of the Asylum.

They submit that the increased number of patients renders those salaries (which were even in the infancy of a low amount in comparison with other Establishments) manifestly insufficient at present to compensate for the increased services now afforded to the Institution, and that too especially when it is considered that one of the Medical Officers is debarred from all private practice;—they therefore propose that an addition be made to each of their salaries, for the year commencing January 1st, 1853, of £50 per annum.

With reference also to that report of the Medical Officers, they must cordially concur in the recommendation—“That some modification should be made of the Lunacy Acts;” and that some application should be sent to Parliament, or the Secretary of State, to remedy the evil by which any one county may, by a passive resistance, nullify the acts and improvements unanimously agreed to by the Quarter Sessions of the other united counties.

It is not without regret that they are compelled to notice the heavy expenses incurred in prosecuting, according to the orders of the Annual Board, the claims of the Asylum upon the county of Merioneth. The



result, however, has shown that the Board had no alternative but to give such directions.

It will be the earnest endeavour of the Committee of Visitors, as well as of the House Committee, to avoid a recurrence of such differences; and as the best means to do so, they must repeat their urgent recommendation that the Justices from each of the counties should, from time to time, give their attendance at the Quarterly, or at least the Annual Board.

The subject of Gas has occupied much of the attention of the Visitors during the last year. They have made application to the several counties, at their recent Quarter Sessions, to raise the sum of £300 to meet the liberal offer of TOWNSHEND MAINWARING, Esq. (for which the Committee again tender their grateful thanks), to give £200 for this purpose. The best information they have been enabled to acquire, estimates the cost of a gasometer, to supply 150 burners, at £500. The result of this application is as follows :—

Flint—granted unanimously.

Denbigh—ditto do.

Anglesey—ditto do.

Carnarvon—ditto do.

Merioneth—no answer received.

The Committee cannot conclude their report without offering their highest approbation, in addition to what they have already expressed, relative to the Medical Officers, the Chaplain, the Matron, the Clerk and Steward, and to all the Attendants in the Institution.

JOHN HEATON, CHAIRMAN.

P.S...Since presenting the report, the Committee have received a fourth donation from Mrs. ABLETT, of £50 to the "Ablett Fund," making a total of £230. The Committee are anxious therefore to add to their report the expressions of their gratitude for this further instance of the continued interest taken by her in the welfare of this Institution.

## THE MEDICAL OFFICERS' REPORT.

It again becomes our duty to report to you the progress of our Asylum since we had last the honour of addressing you.

During the year 1852, the admissions have been 70 ; the discharges, 42—*viz.*, 32 cured, 1 relieved, and 9 not relieved (but at the request of their friends), and 15 have died.

This proportion would appear to exceed our usual mortality ; but it is, we are called upon to state, mainly to be attributed to the fact that many patients have been sent into the Asylum in such a state of bodily health, as to render speedy dissolution inevitable. One poor woman, aged 75, was admitted in such an advanced stage of debility that she died very soon after her removal. And a young female, whose case was reported to have been of two months' standing, was admitted in such a state of exhaustion that she died within six days of her admission. Several other cases of nearly similar character have occurred from the same causes to swell the list of mortality. This is an evil which we would behove parochial authorities to avoid,—as cruel towards the poor patients, and unfair towards the Asylum.

The Commissioners in Lunacy have visited the Asylum once in the course of last year, and have left the following report :—

“NORTH WALES ASYLUM, *July 30th*, 1852.

“SINCE the last visit of the Commissioners, 101 patients have been admitted,—namely 19 private patients, and 82 paupers ; 66 have been discharged—namely 22 private, and 44 paupers ; and 16 have died. The causes of death being chiefly phthisis and exhaustion.

“Of the 56 private patients admitted since the opening of the Establishment, 15 have been discharged cured, 7 relieved, 23 not relieved, and 1 has died.

“The accommodation provided for private patients appear to us to be very good, especially when the small charge made for their care and treatment is taken into consideration.



“We are glad to find that of the patients generally, a considerable number are employed. A daily register of the numbers thus occupied is kept; from which it appears that out of 76 men, 64 are employed; and out of 82 women, 59 are employed.

“No patient, we are assured, has ever been placed in mechanical restraint since the opening of the Establishment.

“A large portion of the land has been brought into cultivation by the patients. Ten acres, being more than half the estate, is made productive by means of spade husbandry.

“There are now 169 patients in the House; *viz.*, 11 privates, and 158 paupers. We have to day seen the whole of them, and found them tranquil, orderly, and generally comfortable.

“The various rooms occupied by the patients are remarkably clean, free from offensive smell, and in good order. The grounds generally, as well as the offices, were in a creditable state. But we consider that increased attention might be paid to the condition of the airing grounds; which, if planted and made ornamental, would materially add to the cheerfulness of the Establishment, and tend to promote order among the patients.

“The bedding we found to be clean and in good order; and we were glad to observe that the joiner, assisted by several of the patients, were actively engaged in making several additional articles of furniture.

“We visited the patients at dinner, and found the food to be abundant, of good quality, and judiciously served.

“Regular excursions are made by parties of patients into the surrounding country, who appear to derive benefit from this species of bodily exercise and recreation.

“The whole Establishment is in a creditable and very satisfactory state.

“Signed,

“S. GASKELL, } *Commissioners*  
“W. MYLNE, } *in Lunacy.*”

We have experienced so much kindness and consideration from the Visitors, that we should be uncourteous towards them if we complained of the discouraging delays which have occurred in the adoption of the various improvements and requirements which we have, from time to time, considered it our duty to suggest to them. We are fully aware that the delay has been caused by circumstances over which the Visitors in general have had no control, and which we do not deem it our province to comment upon, beyond the expression of our deep regret, and a fervent hope that some active measure will be adopted to obtain such a modification of the



Lunacy Act, as will effectually obviate the difficulties they have had to contend with. We must however remark, that the want of Gas during the long and dreary Winter evenings, continues a source of much dissatisfaction. We are willing, however, to hope that the generous offer made by Mr. Townshend Mainwaring, of contributing £200 for this purpose, will very speedily cause Gas Works to be erected, especially as four out of the five counties have sanctioned the introduction of Gas into the Establishment.

The want of workshops, &c., is very seriously felt; and more particularly now our patients are so numerous as to render the rooms now occupied for these purposes necessary for dormitories and day-rooms.

It has ever been an anxious wish to curtail expense of every kind as much as possible. An inspection of the wards and galleries will verify the fact; as it will be seen that a very material item of expenditure, hitherto charged to the counties for painting, has been saved by the labour of our patients and attendants.

Occupation continues to form a leading feature in our curative system. It is difficult to find much variety of employment amongst a population almost exclusively agricultural. Most of the male patients are therefore employed on the grounds, in raising vegetables for the use of the house, cows, and pigs. Several patients are employed as tailors, some as shoemakers, and a few as joiners. Those who are not in a state to be trusted outside the airing walks (the chance of escape being enhanced from the want of an outer wall or pailing), are employed in pumping water for the supply of the Establishment.

During the dry season, we have hitherto experienced a great scarcity of water: but as the reservoir has been much enlarged this last Summer by the labour of the patients, we hope we may not again suffer the same inconvenience; and, we trust, the counties in union will be saved the expense of providing the Establishment with water by other and more costly means.

The greater number of the female patients are occupied in the laundry, wash-house, and sewing; in which last department a material improvement has been effected by the superintendence of an experienced sempstress.

The capstan pumps in the male airing ground, have been covered in with galvanized iron.

The first and second class airing grounds have been tastefully laid out in garden plots, by the patients and attendants. Also those for the third

class patients are nearly completed in a similar manner : but this work has been much retarded of late, in consequence of the continued wet weather.

Frequent excursions into the adjoining country continue to be made by parties of the patients and attendants during the Summer months, and are a source of much gratification, as well as of utility in mitigating the tedium of confinement. The non-restraint system has been, as hitherto, rigidly adhered to—the temporary use of the padded room only excepted, in cases of extreme violence.

On the evening of the 5th instant—the great event of the season, so long talked of, and anticipated with so much delight—the “Ball,” as it is called, took place. We question whether any assembly in the Principality could boast of more happy faces. About 90 patients, and the attendants, assembled in the gallery on the female side of the house, and which they had very tastefully decorated with evergreens. The dancing was kept up with great spirit for some hours. Several songs and glees were sung by the patients and attendants. The frugal supper was then served, and all retired heartily delighted with their evening’s amusement. Not a word, or a gesture which could offend the most fastidious beholder, escaped during this happy re-union. All was joy and delight, and even rooted delusions appeared to vanish for the time.

To our indefatigable Chairman, and the House Committee, we beg to offer our unfeigned thanks for their continued kind support in the discharge of our duties ; and to our Chaplain, Matron, and Clerk, we wish to reiterate our grateful acknowledgment for the efficient assistance afforded us by them in their several capacities.

R. LLOYD WILLIAMS, *Visiting Physician.*  
GEO. T. JONES, *Superintendent.*

THE FOLLOWING TABLES ARE GIVEN FOR THE PURPOSE OF FURNISHING STATISTICAL INFORMATION ON THE SUBJECTS TO WHICH THEY REFER.

TABLE I.

*Showing admissions, discharges, and deaths, during the year.*

	In the House Jan. 1st, 1852.	ADMITTED during the year.	Cured.	DISCHARGED— relieved.	not relieved.	Died.	Remaining 31st Dec. 1852.
Private—males	9	6	3	0	4	1	7
„ females	6	4	1	0	4	0	5
Paupers—males	63	31	12	1	0	7	74
„ females	78	29	16	0	1	7	83
	156	70	32	1	9	15	169

TABLE II.

*Showing the form of disease in 70 cases admitted.*

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Mania acute . . .	7	10	17
„ puerperal . . .	0	3	3
„ chronic . . .	18	14	32
„ with general paralysis . . .	3	0	3
Epilepsy . . .	2	5	7
Dementia . . .	1	0	1
Melancholia . . .	2	1	3
Idiots . . .	4	0	4
Total . . .	37	33	70

TABLE III.

*Showing the duration previous to admission.*

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under one month . . .	5	5	10
„ two ditto . . .	5	2	7
„ three ditto . . .	2	1	3
„ six ditto . . .	2	5	7
„ nine ditto . . .	2	2	4
„ one year . . .	3	1	4
„ five ditto . . .	9	10	19
Unknown . . .	9	7	16
Total . . .	37	33	70

TABLE IV.

*Showing form of disease in the 32 cases discharged and cured.*

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Mania acute . . .	10	14	24
„ puerperal . . .	0	3	3
„ chronic . . .	3	0	3
Melancholia . . .	2	0	2
Total . . .	15	17	32



TABLE V.

*Showing the duration of disease in the 32 cases discharged, cured, previous to admission.*

			Males.	Females.	Total.
Under two weeks	.	.	4	5	9
„ one month	.	.	4	7	11
„ two ditto	.	.	5	4	9
Unknown	.	.	2	1	3
Total	.	.	15	17	32

TABLE VI.

*Showing the duration of treatment in the Asylum of those cases discharged cured.*

					Males	Females	Total.
Under one month	.	.	.	.	1	0	1
„ two ditto	.	.	.	.	2	2	4
„ three ditto	.	.	.	.	2	8	10
„ six ditto	.	.	.	.	5	5	10
„ nine ditto	.	.	.	.	3	0	3
„ one year	.	.	.	.	2	2	4
Total	.	.	.	.	15	17	32

TABLE VII.

*Showing the form of disease in 15 cases of death.*

			Males.	Females.	Total.
Mania acute	.	.	0	1	1
„ chronic	.	.	3	6	9
„ general paralysis	.	.	2	0	2
Epilepsy	.	.	1	0	1
Idiot	.	.	2	0	2
Total	..	.	8	7	15

TABLE VIII.

*Showing the cause of death and duration of disease, prior and subsequent to admission.*

Age.	Sex.	Prior.	Subsequent.	Cause.
34	. M.	. 2 years	. 2 years	. paralysis.
66	. M.	. 6 months	. 3 months	. ditto.
52	. F.	. 7 years	. 2 years	. phthisis.
63	. M.	. 1 month	. 10 months	. ditto.
Not known	. F.	. not known	. 3 years	. ditto
Ditto	. M.	. from birth	. ditto	. debility.
Ditto	. F.	. not known	. 2 years	. phthisis.
56	. F.	. 10 years	. 1 year	. exhaustion.
Not known	. M.	. not known	. 2 months	. epilepsy.
30	. F.	. 2 months	. 6 days	. exhaustion.
45	. M.	. 2 months	. 2 years	. paralysis.
55	. F.	. 1 month	. 2 years	. phthisis.
75	. F.	. 3 weeks	. 8 years	. exhaustion.
35	. M.	. from birth	. 5 months	. debility.
56	. M.	. 6 months	. 6 months	. ditto.

R. LLOYD WILLIAMS, *Visiting Physician.*

GEO. T. JONES, *Superintendent.*

## CHAPLAIN'S REPORT.

THE Chaplain of the North Wales Hospital for the Insane, in presenting his report to the Board of Visitors and Subscribers, on this the fourth anniversary of their Institution, has the satisfaction to state, that, during the past year, Divine service, which has been duly performed at the Hospital chapel, agreeably to the directions laid down for his guidance, has been attended by a very considerable number of the patients, who, in general, continue to evince much readiness, and, in some instances, anxiety, to avail themselves of these means of grace, both on Sundays and week-days. Of the 160 patients now in the house, about 90 are usually present on Sundays. This number comprises all, with a few exceptions, who are in a fit state, and, consequently, at liberty to attend chapel. Upon week-days, for a cause alluded to in last year's report, the attendance is considerably smaller.

Since the last annual meeting, the recess in the chapel, intended for that purpose, has been fitted up with a neatly covered communion table, &c.—thus giving it a much more finished and ecclesiastical appearance.

On Christmas day, holy communion was administered, for the first time within the walls of the Hospital, to those of the officers and attendants of the Establishment who chose to avail themselves of this opportunity of participating in this solemn ordinance of our holy religion. As yet, the Chaplain has not ventured to invite any of the patients to the Lord's Table. Indeed the question of the admission or non-admission of a certain class of patients to a full participation of the privileges of church membership is one upon which he has felt much anxiety for some time. For, occasionally, cases do occur where the malady develops itself in such a form—recurrent mania, for instance—as to leave the unhappy patient, during the intervals of the attacks, perfectly calm and conscious, and competent to entertain the most important subjects; while at other times, when under the paroxysms of the complaint, he gives most painful proofs of the perversion of his mind, and total unfitness to be treated as a moral and responsible agent.

With regard to the more immediate labours of the Chaplain among the patients out of chapel, he must, of course, in the first instance, be guided by the professional knowledge of the Medical Officers of the Institution as to the cases in which such direct application of spiritual instruction may, or may not, be desirable and beneficial. And here your Chaplain is happy in the opportunity of bearing testimony to the alacrity with which the Superintendent, at all times, assists him with his counsel, and points out to him the cases in which he may, with the greatest chance of success, offer spiritual advice and consolation.

That the labours of a Chaplain in an Establishment of this kind do not produce those satisfactory results which under other and less peculiar circumstances they might bring forth, the Board of Visitors can easily understand. Still, it is hoped, that if the majority of his charge are, thro' the decrees of an All-Wise Providence, rendered incapable of appreciating his message, a few, here and there, do draw comfort, and learn resignation, from the spiritual privileges provided for them by the Christian sympathy of the Managers of the Institution.